

Arizona Trafficking and Understandings: Transport Industry and Foreign Drivers

Here in Arizona, there are many reservations. We are also near the Mexican border, where cartel activity, including smuggling and trafficking, is a concern. There are also activists and foreign actors operating in these regions.

States like California, Arizona, and Texas are among the most affected by trafficking. Native Americans are the most vulnerable populations.

Where does this targeting often occur? Frequently near truck stops and transit corridors. By whom? Local predators, undocumented offenders, and individuals operating within the transport industry.

Where are trafficking victims being taken? Some may question whether industries such as agriculture could be involved:

“Approximately 20,000 to over 35,000 commercial trucks cross the United States Mexico border daily, facilitating billions of dollars in annual trade. According to 2024 data, over 7.6 million commercial trucks crossed from Mexico, averaging more than 21,000 per day. Laredo is the busiest crossing, handling over 3 million of these trucks annually.”

Produce shipments have at times slowed due to cartel related activity. Cartels smuggle human beings, drugs, and weapons. They also move into territories and seek control over them.

These trucks do not remain at the border; they travel throughout the entire country. This issue is not isolated to border states. It is nationwide.

Victims are often taken to motels along highways and rural roads, apartments or short term rentals, and nearby cities.

Final Note: Given the rate of missing people, we see conditions that resemble slavery, modern warbands and national emergency. Given the slower pace of prosecution, we feel *time is of the essence*. The goal of all Americans at this time should be to save American lives.